

May 17, 2001

POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PART-
NERSHIP ACT OF 2001 LETTER OF
ENDORSEMENT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, please accept the following letter of endorsement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which corresponds with my introduction today of the Post Office Community Partnership Act of 2001.

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION,
1776 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., NW, SUITE
400,

Washington, DC, May 15, 2001.

Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLUMENAUER: The American Planning Association is pleased to endorse the Post Office Community Partnership Act of 2001. APA applauds your outstanding vision and leadership in introducing this legislation and once again bringing this important issue before the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation recognizes and protects the central and compelling role that the local post office plays in the economic and social life of a community by providing a needed method for community input and support for local planning.

The Postal Service has too often closed or relocated facilities in ways that abandon service for some communities, vacate historic structures in downtown areas, and contribute to urban sprawl without providing for adequate community involvement in the decision-making process. This measure gives local citizens a greater voice in decisions about the location of postal facilities and ensures that local plans addressing growth management, land use, traffic congestion, environmental protection, downtown revitalization and historic preservation are respected by the Postal Service.

Increasingly, communities across the nation are developing comprehensive plans to better manage development, preserve vital resources and encourage sustainable economic development. It is essential that the Federal Government is a good neighbor and partner in these smart growth communities. The Post Office Community Partnership Act simply guarantees that the Postal Service operates within the guidelines that a community develops for all other citizens and businesses, without establishing an unduly burdensome mandate on the Postal Service.

In a national voter survey sponsored by APA and conducted at the end of 2000, we found that an overwhelming 82% of voters support legislation ensuring that federal facilities are located in places that are easily accessible to citizens and are consistent with local growth management plans. This support transcended partisan affiliation, demographic group and regional location.

The post office is an institution at the heart of any community, particularly small towns. By protecting the values and vision of local citizens as embodied in the planning process, this bill lives up to its title by creating a real and lasting partnership between the Postal Service and communities.

APA lends its enthusiastic support to your efforts and urges the United States Senate to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE MCCLENDON,

FAICP President.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSISTANCE
PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Cultural Heritage Assistance Partnership Act. The legislation would establish a program within the National Park Service to help preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the United States. The program would coordinate Federal activities and provide information, technical assistance and grants to States, Indian tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations.

Our nation's cultural heritage is a diverse array of natural, historical, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. The hallmark of these treasures is that they are authentic.

Together they define an area or region's distinct character. Communities increasingly recognize their cultural heritage as a valuable resource, both esthetically and economically. Cultural heritage tourism is now a \$50 billion segment of the \$600 billion US travel industry.

Within Colorado are six state heritage areas, designated by the Colorado Heritage Area Partnership and the governor. Colorado also has one federally designated heritage area, Cache La Poudre. The Colorado program is still relatively young and depends largely on volunteers and some small grants. Yet the heritage they share is very important not just to Colorado, but to the rest of the country as well.

Other states—such as Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah—have developed or are in the process of developing heritage area programs. I'm told that at least 20 states have developed cultural heritage tourism programs.

At the national level, however, no Federal agency has the role of coordinating the many government programs that could assist the cultural heritage programs being developed by States, tribes, local governments and private organizations.

My legislation would create the Cultural Heritage Assistance Partnership Program in the National Park Service to provide information and technical assistance on cultural heritage resources and activities, including heritage areas, heritage tourism and related economic and community development.

Technical assistance would include developing models of cultural heritage partnership agreements; holding workshops, conferences, training and public meetings; developing guidance on ways to access Federal programs; and coordinating meetings with Federal agencies and non-federal partners. An awards program would be established to recognize exemplary projects or program that carry out the purposes of this Act.

The legislation also provides for a modest grant program, to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to States, Indian tribes, local governments and nonprofit organizations. Annual funding for the grants is capped at \$9 million. No applicant could receive more than \$50,000 in grants in any fiscal year, all grants must be matched on a 50 percent basis, and

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all recipients must have at least one partner who also contributes facilities, supplies or services for the project.

Mr. Speaker, my bill has gained support from many international, national and local interests—not only from my own State of Colorado, but organizations from all over the country. Many of them are listed below, and the list grows daily.

They speak far more eloquently than I can about what the bill would do to further their efforts to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of our great nation.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING CULTURAL
HERITAGE ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP ACT
COLORADO

Colorado Preservation, Inc.

Colorado Community Revitalization Association.

City of Lafayette, Colorado.

Operation Healthy Communities (Durango Colorado).

Park County Historical Society, Colorado.

OTHER STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Connecticut River Watershed Council—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont.

Historic Staunton Foundation, Virginia.

Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists.

New River Community Partners, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

New York State Archaeological Association.

Public Policy Information Fund, Austin, Texas.

Rio Grande Institute, Marathon, Texas.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Museums.

American Cultural Resources Association.

American Planning Association.

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Partners in Parks.

Preservation Action.

Scenic America.

Society for American Archaeology.

US/ICOMOS.

SELECTED STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE
CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP ACT

COLORADO

Colorado Community Revitalization Association (CCRA) wholeheartedly endorses the Cultural Heritage Assistance Partnership Act that Congressman Udall will be introducing this week in Congress.

CCRA is a statewide nonprofit organization that has, as one of its programs, the Colorado Heritage Area Partnership program (CHAP). Within Colorado there are six state heritage areas.

The heritage areas in Colorado are volunteer efforts that receive sporadic project funding from grants. Two of the areas have been fortunate to have volunteers who have had the flexibility to provide minor assistance to the heritage areas as part of their employment.

As Colorado wrestles with ways to control and direct its growth, the goals of Colorado's heritage areas become more difficult to realize and simultaneously all the more critical. Recognition of the importance of our heritage and providing ways to identify, inventory, preserve and enhance all the elements that make up what we call "heritage" is vital to securing our place in history. We